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parts of the book referring to Germany. The errors pointed out arise from the in-and-in breeding of German scholars. A few years residence and study in foreign countries may be a remedy worthy of consideration. CARL C. PLEHN.

St. Legier, Switzerland.

The A B C of Taxation, With . . . . Other Essays and Addresses. By C. B. FILLEBROWN, President of the Massachusetts Single Tax League. (New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909. Pp. ix, 229. $1.20.)

Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, the long time president of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, and disciple of Henry George, is known to most American economists through his persistent and always genial efforts to bring about "agreements in political economy." All of us have received and all have enjoyed his letters and his circulars, abounding in spritely wit and gentle humor as well as in earnest argument. Most of us have replied to his appeals; for is it not of record that 135 assented to and none dissented from his first "agreement," to wit, "ground rent is what land is worth for use"? Many of us too, bidden from far and near, have sat at the banquet table, in Boston, with the president and with the members of the League and, while trying, perhaps, to convert him and them from their errors, have been perchance more than half converted to those selfsame errors. Indeed this gentle heretic is most persuasive, and makes his doctrine most attractive. He has certainly taught us the lesson of tolerance, and shown us the way to kindlier criticism, if not to "agreement," when opposing views are met.

In this little book, Mr. Fillebrown brings together in revised form a number of essays, addresses, and statistical studies, all relating to the single tax, which Mr. Fillebrown has already published. The revision consists mainly in bringing the statistics presented down to date. The book seems to the reviewer to serve three distinctly important purposes, and will be equally welcome for each.

In the first place it gives us an authoritative statement, in condensed and interesting form, by a loving disciple, and brilliant

writer, of what the Georgian single tax theory ultimately meant to its own creator. Mr. Fillebrown says: "When referring to Henry George's views, I have taken pains to give what I believe to have been his final judgments, making the writer of mature age the interpreter of his own earlier masterpiece." This is distinctly useful because few of us have had the time to follow throughout his voluminous writings, the changes which maturity, travel, and wider knowledge of men and of the economic world wrought in the views of that brilliant author. The reviewer has stood on what it is safe to assume is the same spot on the hill-top overlooking the bay of San Francisco, where Henry George tells us "a chance remark of a passing teamster" revealed in a flash the whole theory of *Progress and Poverty*, and has looked down upon the fertile stretches which at the time Henry George was there were held in barren idleness by one, Carpentier, under a decree of the courts which made *bona fide* settlers and would-be users of the land into outlawed squatters. When listening to the tales of those who participated in that not bloodless struggle between the "land grabber" and the settlers, it is easy to surmise what that "chance remark" was which inspired *Progress and Poverty*. The reviewer is also acquainted with a little coterie of now gray-bearded single-taxers in San Francisco who drew a lifelong inspiration from direct contact with Henry George himself. On these accounts, as for other reasons, he has read most of Henry George's later writings. Yet he finds Mr. Fillebrown's restatement interesting, and decidedly useful. Moreover the literary style of these essays, while different, is in its way as brilliant as that of *Progress and Poverty*.

The second of the three main purposes which the book will serve is that it makes a permanent and easily available record of Mr. Fillebrown's intensive statistical studies of real estate values and rentals in Boston. These are valuable in many connections other than in problems relating to taxation.

The third purpose served is to furnish a record of Mr. Fillebrown's efforts at "agreements in political economy." This is a sort of symposium by correspondence participated in by over 135 professional economists and others. The accomplished results are given in a few pages, but being the outcome of years of effort and the work of many minds are distinctly important. Aside from those

mentioned there are many other matters of no little interest in this small collection of brilliant essays.

CARL C. PLEHN.

St. Legier, Switzerland,

La Maternité et la Défense Nationale contre la Dépopulation. Par SICARD DE PLAUZOLES. (Paris: V. Giard et E. Brière. 1909. 3.50 fr.)

The volume is logical throughout and if the premises are granted the conclusions of the author naturally follow. The argument, in brief, is this: Every state is interested in having a healthy and increasing population. But throughout the civilized world this increase is being retarded, and in France it has practically ceased. The reason for this lies in the growing dislike for large families. But back of it all is an economic cause. The wages of the great mass of the population are so low that the birth of a child means a severe burden, and a large family spells economic ruin for the household. To assist in the support of the family the wives are often forced to work for wages, and this means the neglect of home duties. The children must be weaned and fed on artificial food, or turned over to a nurse. Either course means a high infant mortality or puny children. The blame for this must be placed upon the present capitalistic system, which is interested rather in the production of economic goods than of healthy children. Matters will never be improved until the state frankly assumes its duties, admits that in rearing a family a mother is fulfilling a social function, and subsidizes the mothers of all children, whether legitimate or illegitimate.

The author considers the present system also responsible for the small size of families among the wealthy class. Here it is the desire to hand down an undivided estate. If the principle of collectivity were introduced this motive would disappear.

Statistics are introduced which show the high mortality of children who are fed upon cow's milk or milk substitutes. This is a demonstrated fact. But from this, certain rather surprising conclusions are drawn. Stations for the distribution of pure or pasteurized milk are condemned since they induce mothers to wean